

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • FEBRUARY 1997

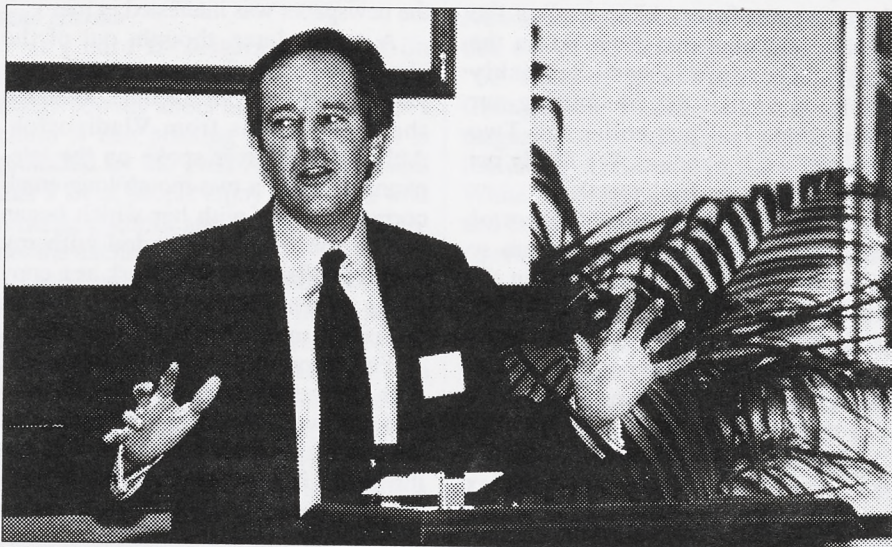
James Fallows: Redefining "Foreign" News

It's perhaps the most important question facing correspondents and foreign editors today: what kind of international news should be presented to an American public who have a lack of interest in news in general and news from abroad in particular.

James Fallows, newly appointed editor of *U.S. News & World Report* in Washington, told the OPC Foundation luncheon on Jan. 27 that news organizations must redefine the way they frame their stories and present them to readers and viewers if they are to survive. "Almost any time readers have the opportunity to vote in the marketplace, they vote against foreign news," Fallows said.

Right now, he told a record audience of 160 people, editors are torn between two starkly different strategies. "One is the 'Eat your spinach' approach where you do 90-part series on the situation in Slovakia," he said. "The other is the 'I give up' approach. Give them what they want and the hell with it." The "I give up" strategy emphasizes news and information about celebrities, violence and sports.

"But there is some middle course between the 90-part series and the Sharon Stone course to get people interested in world news," he said. "Making what's important also interesting is the most important thing journalism can do to save itself."



U.S. News & World Report Editor and OPC member James Fallows speaking at the OPC Foundation luncheon on Jan. 27.

Fallows said he was an admirer of the "New Journalism" of the 1960s when writers such as Tom Wolfe, David Halberstam, Gay Talese and Hunter Thompson found entertaining ways of writing about important subjects. "Things which matter can be fun," said Fallows.

In his own magazine, he pointed to

recent cover stories such as "Illegal in Iowa" which traced the use of illegal Mexican immigrants in the meat-packing industry and "Sweatshop Christmas" that analyzed where designer jeans, toys, and athletic gear are made and under what conditions. In both cases, the magazine asked simple

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OPC to Show Film on Chechnya Conflict

The conflict in Chechnya has claimed at least 30,000 lives since it began in 1994. On Feb. 10, the OPC, in association with the Russian-American Cultural Forum and Columbia's Harriman Institute, will host a private screening of "The Prisoner of the Mountains," an acclaimed Russian movie on the conflict directed by Sergei Bodrov. Winner of the three major prizes at Cannes, the film drew President Boris Yeltsin to request a private screening after its premiere. Based

on a Tolstoy novella, the movie tells the story of a young Russian soldier who is captured and held hostage by Chechen rebels. Although fictional, the film realistically portrays the details and human drama of the conflict. For realism, it was filmed in a ruggedly beautiful mountain area just fifty miles from the frontlines. The event will be held at 6:00 pm sharp at the Mark Goodson Theater in the Dept. of Cultural Affairs Bldg. at 2 Columbus Circle. Admission is free, but space is limited.

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A Reporter's Life in Vladivostok

By Heidi Brown

Another long night stretched before us. After four or five power outages one night at our small newspaper, my boss and I were racing to put the final touches into the computer before midnight. We cajoled our layout guy, Igor, into leaving his poker game just one more time to help with some graphics. Igor attempted to save our changes, and... the computer froze. After reading the Cyrillic message that came up on the screen, Igor turned and sheepishly informed us that the file storing our entire issue had just collapsed. Two weeks of work were lost. We finally got the newspaper put back together.

Just another day at the *Vladivostok News*, but I was reminded, as I am so often, of what it means to work in the Russian Far East. Power outages, computer problems, cultural challenges—all part of life in Vladivostok, Russia, where I have been working for the past half-year.

Fascinating yet exasperating, Russia has long clutched me in its complex web of history. After spending my college junior year in St. Petersburg, I vowed to return someday to continue to explore its mysteries and paradoxes. While stuck in a humdrum publishing job last year in New York City, I began surreptitiously surfing the internet for ways to get back to Russia—and maybe even break into a career in journalism at the same time.

After finding an announcement that two newspapers, one in Tacoma, Washington, and one in Vladivostok, had participated in an internet publishing grant from USAID, I wrote to Tacoma, hoping I could break into reporting there (Vladivostok seemed too far away). I received back a curt letter informing me the pay was low and I would probably not be interested, so I assumed no one at the newspaper was interested in me.

A month later, though, out of the blue, I had a telephone message from a woman calling from Tacoma, although she said she was from Vladivostok. Although we never spoke on the telephone, I began a two-month long email correspondence with her which began with a job offer and ended with my arrival in Vladivostok to work as a copy editor on the *Vladivostok News*. Russia had pulled me back again.

For reporters, the city is a paradox: with its melodramatic political wrangling, a wealth of nearby ecological diversity and a unique perspective on the world from its position on the border of China and North Korea; it is a newshound's siren.

One of my biggest problems, because of a Cold War view of foreign journalists and widespread fear of organized crime, both apparatchiks and businessmen withhold information. They usually explain that "there is no reason why" we should know something, as one state official explained

after refusing to tell me how many boarding schools are operated by the state government.

Information that we really need, such as how much coal is really left in the city's stores or how long the latest joint venture will continue, are usually off-limits to us.

As I get to know Vladivostok, I am using knowledge I gathered in St. Petersburg. On my college program, I dated a deaf Russian and got to know several deaf people. Here in Vladivostok, I have become close to a family whose son is deaf, and I recently visited a boarding school for deaf children. What I found there was so touching, I have begun researching the state system for educating deaf children. The paradox of sincere sympathy for the children combined with its antiquated views of the handicapped is quintessentially Russian.

As long as the city's coal supply holds ups and my Russian language skills improve, I am planning to stay in Vladivostok—or at least until I am able to find another journalism job in a remote part of the world.

A 1993 graduate of Oberlin College with a minor in Russian, Brown worked as a marketing assistant in New York before joining the Vladivostok News in Sept. 1996. For more information on the newspaper, please turn to the People section of the Bulletin.

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The OPC vs. Larry Flynt

By George Burns

While *People* magazine called the new movie about the founder of *Hustler* magazine a "cheerfully inoffensive" film, feminist Gloria Steinem said in a *New York Times* editorial that the film cynically portrayed someone "no better than a publisher of *Ku Klux Klan* books or a Nazi." Here Burns gives his account of the OPC's encounter with the still controversial Larry Flynt.

I write this before seeing *People vs. Larry Flynt* so that the film won't suggest things that I don't in fact remember about a rousing appearance by Flynt at the OPC in its 40th Street Clubhouse. One of the things I don't remember is the year, but it was at the peak of his *Hustler* notoriety.

The decision to invite Flynt raised controversy in the club. How could the OPC, which existed to honor and promote excellence in journalism, so dignify a contemptible smut peddler, the antithesis of its ideals? On the other hand, how could it turn its back on a freedom of the press issue? Those that turned out to confront Flynt was determined to demonstrate their fairness—and their disdain. Flynt was not what they expected. He was affable, not at all defensive, and friendly.

He talked about growing up in hillbilly country, and the kids he knew there. He said the best they had to look forward to was to follow their fathers, spending lives tilling furrows in rocky hillsides.

If I hadn't gotten into publishing, Flynt said, this very day I'd be on a rocky hill, behind a plow, staring at a mule's behind. Instead—with a happy smile—I'm here, in the Overseas Press Club, staring at your friendly faces. The reporters broke into laughter.

They tried to recover, with hard questions, but Flynt offered no defense. He sincerely envied them for their high-class audiences; his readers did not have that level of education. They liked to look at the pictures he printed in his magazine, the same way your readers like to read your editorials.

Did these pictures he published have any redeeming social value? Of course not. They're dirty pictures, he smiled, like the ones we passed around and snickered at where I grew up. I know

you have more sophisticated tastes, but there's a whole world of people out there who like to look at dirty picture.

These degrading pictures of women you print—what do their husbands and boyfriends think of them? Where do you think the pictures come from? Their husbands and boyfriends submit them, said Flynt.

No, he would not like his daughter to read *Hustler*.

It's hard to sustain an attack on someone who agrees with all the bad things you say about him; who says, all I claim is that printing these pictures is protected by the First Amendment, and that a lot of people enjoy them; and who remains cheerful and agreeable throughout the exchange.

As Flynt answered questions with wit and friendly banter, he was doing something insidious and disturbing to the cynical reporters who had come to deride him: he was proving...likable.

The reporters realized this, they were clearly uncomfortable about it, but they couldn't do much about it. Eventually a reporter asked Flynt if he planned any publications beside *Hustler*. Flynt said, as a matter of fact, he hoped to start a national news magazine. You mean like *Time* and *Newsweek*? Exactly. A reporter sputtered, do you think your publishing experience qualifies you to run a news magazine? Flynt said, of course not. I'll hire the best editors and reporters, who have the talent to put out a top news magazine. Let me ask you, Flynt said. When I start my national news magazine, at competitive salaries, how many of you will be willing to work for it? The air was filled with wavering arms.

It was not unprecedented, but neither was it routine for members to invite a guest speaker to join them in the bar after the presentation. But they invited Flynt, and they sat in lively conversation with him late into the night. Neither side converted the other, but then, neither attempted to. But they talked and drank, and it was fun.

The reporters who'd met Flynt that night were saddened and indignant when he was later shot and crippled. I shall now go to the movie and see how closely its depiction of Larry Flynt corresponds to the one I remember from that evening at the OPC.

PEOPLE... with Al Kaff

ARLINGTON, VA: The Newseum, a \$50 million museum focused on the past, present and future of news, is scheduled to open in April in the Freedom Forum World Center near Freedom Park. **Cara Sutherland**, Newseum curator of exhibitions, said that one of the opening exhibits will be "60 Years of Life: Photographs That Changed the World," a survey of the magazine's six decades of photography including works of Margaret Bourke-White, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Robert Capa and Eugene Smith. The museum is funded and operated by The Freedom Forum.

BANGKOK: The Indochina Media Memorial Foundation, founded in 1991 by **Tim Page**, a British photojournalist who covered the Vietnam War for UPI and *Time*, late last year conducted a
(Continued on Page 4)

Welcome to Our New Members

Michael Baumann
Correspondent
Wirtschafts Woche
(active resident)

James Colligan
Correspondent
Catholic News Service
(active resident)

Sheri Prasso
Asia Editor
Business Week
(active resident)

Patrick Rizzo
New York Bureau Chief
Reuters
(active resident)

David Schlesinger
Financial Editor, Americas
Reuters
(active resident)

Richard Threlkeld
Moscow Correspondent
CBS News
(active overseas)

PEOPLE

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three-week course on the environment for 18 print and broadcast reporters from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Burma. Focusing on marine and coastal problems, the course dealt with effects of rapid industrialization on the environment. With start up money from the Asia Foundation, Page established the foundation as a memorial to the more than 350 correspondents killed in Indochina wars. Funding for the environmental course came from Danida, Denmark's government aid agency, The Freedom Forum, the Reuter Foundation and Australia AID. The foundation now is seeking funds for courses on photo and radio journalism.

BLOOMFIELD, MO: Construction has started on a museum and library to house archives of the Stars and Stripes Association, the alumni organization of staffers who worked for *Stars & Stripes* in Europe and the Pacific during and since World War II. Chairman Tom Howard said that back issues of the U.S. military newspaper, unpublished behind-the-scenes reports by staffers, personal letters and other war-related items have been donated to the museum that is being built in Bloomfield. Museum leader is Jim Mayo, Route 1, Box 22C, Bloomfield, MO 63825, Tel: (314) 568-2793, Fax: (314) 568-3790.

HONG KONG: The *Far Eastern Economic Review* changed its leadership in December. Executive Editor **Nayan Chanda** was promoted to editor, advertising director Karen Mullis was appointed managing director and general manager **Agnes Ting** was named deputy managing editor. Chanda and Mullis succeeded **Joseph Kahn**, the magazine's editor and publisher, who became a Hong Kong reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Asian Wall Street Journal*. Kahn formerly was the *Journal*'s Shanghai correspondent. Nayan joined the *Review* in 1974 and reported from Indochina, Washington and Hong Kong. He became editor of *The Asian Wall Street Journal Weekly* in New York in 1990, returned to the *Review* in 1992 as deputy editor and was named executive editor last October. **Shiraz Sidhva**, *Financial Times* correspondent in South Asia, on Feb. 1 became New Delhi bureau chief and Lesley Kelly, the magazine's Hong

Kong sales director, was named as advertising director.

ITHACA, NY: An article by OPC member **Dan Morris** on Ivy League football was published in the 1997 Rose Bowl Game Official Souvenir Magazine. Morris, who played football three seasons at Cornell University, an Ivy school, thumbnailed the only games played by Ivy League teams in the New Year's Day Tournament of Roses.



Dan Morris

KENT, CT.: Ted Marks, a former UPI correspondent and news executive in Tokyo, Southeast Asia and New York and later with Knight-Ridder, has moved his media consultants head office from Brooklyn, N.Y., to Kent, Connecticut, with branch offices in New York City and Maine. Marks provides strategic planning for news organizations, most of them international news companies looking to expand their penetration into the North American market. Ted's wife Marcia is a consultant organizing trade shows and seminars. Ted reports: "We loved living in Brooklyn, but frankly the wear and tear of New York was getting to us, so we figured it was time to move on."

MENDHAM, NJ: OPC member **Frank T. Buchner** has given the club a book that "tells of hitherto unreported top secret missions by a group of U.S. Army Air Force personnel who performed an unusual and top secret job during World War II." The book is "Fighting Scouts of the Eighth Airforce" [Arlington, Texas: Scouting Force Association, 1996] by E. Richard Atkins. In 1943 Air Force bombing missions over Europe often were unsuccessful and dangerous because radar bombing equipment had not been developed and clouds hid targets. Col. Budd Peaslee, a veteran bomber pilot, presented a dangerous plan to Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, the 8th U.S. Air Force commander: send out scouting parties to check weather conditions 20 minutes ahead of the B-17 and B-24 bombers. Doolittle accepted the plan. He required all pilots to be volunteers and forbidden to engage the enemy except to protect

themselves. The plan worked. "If there was ever a group of people who deserve the title [unsung heroes], it is the men of the Scouting Forces of the 8th Air Force," the book says. One of the weather scouts is still reachable: Bill Cox, 16301 East Pacific, Independence, Mo. 64050, telephone: (816) 461-7939.

MIAMI: The Inter American Press Association in July will hold a conference in Guatemala on crimes against journalists in the Americas. Association President **Luis Gabriel Cano** of *El Espectador*, Bogota, Colombia, and immediate past president **David Lawrence Jr.** of *The Miami Herald* obtained the acceptance of César Gaviria, secretary general of the Organization of American States and a former president of Colombia, to participate in the conference. Crimes against journalists recorded in recent years by the Association include 164 murders, many of them unsolved; seven kidnappings; and 169 physical assaults. Countries most involved were Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. In a December report, the Association said that "despite many positive changes in the democratic currents that have swept over the nations of the Americas in recent years, threats to freedom of the press continue in the forms of intimidation, court challenges and tragically, murder." Danilo Arbilla of Búsqueda, Montevideo, Uruguay, chairman of the Association's committee on freedom of the press and information, said: "The distinguishing factor in Latin America is that virtually all of these crimes have gone unsolved and the guilty unpunished." Copies of the report are available free of charge from the Inter American Press Association, tel: (305) 634-2465, fax (305) 635-2272.

NEW YORK: OPC member **Walter Cronkite**, 80, told *TV Guide* in December that he might not make it as a television news anchor today. "I don't think I could get a job today, to tell you the truth," he said. "All these young people brought up in the television generation are such competition that I wouldn't get on the air. I was lucky." Cronkite, who start-



Walter Cronkite

ed his career with United Press before WWII, called today's three U.S. network anchors "all handsome, which I think helps, and they all are exceptionally good ad-libbers, when extemporaneous broadcasting is required." Within weeks of publication, Cronkite's book "A Reporter's Life" [New York: Knopf] moved from second to first place on *The New York Times* best seller list.

In January *Newsweek* appointed a new foreign editor, **Deidre Depke**, who joined from *Business Week*, where for the past five years she was a senior editor. **Nancy Cooper**, senior editor of *Newsweek's* international section since 1992, was appointed editor of a new section titled "America 2000" that will look ahead to life in the early years of the next century.



Nancy Cooper



Deidre Depke, formerly *Newsweek's* managing editor, will oversee the millennium coverage.

ABC's chief foreign correspondent in London, **Garrick Utley**, said he is moving to Cable News Network in February. Before joining ABC in 1993, Utley had spent 30 years at NBC with assignments in Vietnam, Europe and Washington. Just five weeks ago, veteran correspondent **Brit Hume** left ABC for Fox News Channel. In a further blow to ABC, **Diane Sawyer** is said to be considering a move from the network.

The Jan. *Bulletin* reported that **James Murdoch**, son of media tycoon **Rupert Murdoch**, had been named vice president for music and new media in his father's News Corp., an "appointment [that] reportedly signifies the start of a major push into the music industry by News Corp." Correct. Later in January, James Murdoch, 24, was selected to manage News Corp.'s new

venture on the Internet, a Web site titled TV Guide Entertainment Network. On Jan. 13, *The New York Times* said News Corp. has made many "false starts on the Internet...despite millions of dollars and the efforts of half a dozen different executives over the last two years."

On CBS Sixty Minutes Dec. 15, OPC member **David Turnley** and his twin brother **Peter Turnley** described their adventures in Europe and the Mideast as competing news photographers who, as look-alikes, often were mistaken for each other. Paris-based David has worked for the *Detroit Free Press*, and Peter is a *Newsweek* contributing photographer. Questioning one Turnley while on the lookout for the other Turnley, a border guard sneered when the detained Turnley said he was innocent and the guard probably was looking for his brother.

ORLANDO, FL: A new edition of OPC member **A. E. P. (Ed) Wall's** 1984 book, "The Spirit of Cardinal Bernardin," was published by Thomas More Publishing, tel: (800) 264-2123, in November following the death of Joseph Louis Cardinal Bernardin in Chicago. The commemorative edition includes contributions by President Bill Clinton, Pope John Paul II, Ann Landers and others. Wall, a former managing editor of *The Honolulu Advertiser*, now is the semi-retired editor of the Central Florida Episcopalian.



A. E. P. (Ed) Wall

PARIS: **Fergal Duffy**, Dow Jones marketing communications executive for Europe/Middle East/Africa, calls the program "an important first-time event here in France, whereby a business school, a brokerage firm and a financial information vendor have formed a partnership to help students prepare for their graduate studies and give them exposure to the real financial world." Under the program, Dow Jones Telerate France and Finacor, a French brokerage firm, will provide a dealing room for use at the HEC School of Management, a business school attended by over 1,000 students.

SYDNEY: **Joelle Andreoli-Dietrich**, president of the Foreign Correspondents Association of Australia and the South Pacific, an OPC reciprocal club, reported in December that Association membership increased to 172 during the year. Dietrich said one factor in the Association's success was the decision of Alexander Downer, Australia's foreign affairs minister, to maintain Sydney's International Media Centre, the Association's home. In addition to Dietrich, Association officers elected last year are **Geoff Spencer**, AP, vice president; **John Shaw**, Business Asia, secretary; **Maggie Scully**, AP, treasurer; and board members **Michael Perry**, Reuters; **Esther Blank**, German Radio TV; **Edwina Pitkenthley**, Kyodo News Service; and **Victor Del Rio**, Televisa SACV.

When President Clinton visited Australia last November, AP photographers **Russ McPhedran** and **Steve Holland** followed him to the Mirage Country Club but were not allowed on the golf course. Off the course but near the 17th hole, McPhedran shouted, "Hey, Mr. President. How about a picture with us?" Clinton walked through mud and off the course to shake hands with the two photographers while a Secret Service agent took their picture.

TAIPEI: Late last year, Reuters upgraded its Taiwan bureau to a branch office responsible for processing news from Taiwan, mainland China, Hong Kong and Singapore. Branch manager **Betty Wong** said, "I believe this action will help bring Taiwan one step closer to its goal of being a regional media center," according to the government's *Free China Journal*. **Phillip Melchior**, managing director of Reuters East Asia, said the news service chose Taiwan over other Chinese-speaking areas because of the skills of Taipei reporters.

TOKYO: North Korea's Central News Agency joined the Internet on Jan. 16 with reports in English. **Son Jin-Hyong**, president of Korea News Service, agent in Japan for the North Korean news organization, said: "The aim of the home page is to see that information about the DPRK [Democratic People's Republic of Korea] is correctly disseminated." The web address is <http://www.kcna.co.jp>

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PEOPLE

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Overstaying his Japanese visitor's visa for four and a half years, **Dan Bloom**, an American journalist who worked five years for Tokyo's English-language *Daily Yomiuri*, was arrested late last year, held for six weeks in the Tokyo Detention House and then deported. "I still love Japan and plan to come back as soon as they let me," Bloom said in a fax to *Tokyo Weekender*, a newspaper for Japan's foreign community.

Correspondents newly assigned to Tokyo include **Annick Goulet**, a Quebec journalist who reports for Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; **Torsten Huhn**, who works for German public radio, to Tokyo as East Asia bureau chief of ARD/German Radio Network; and **Thomas Wagner**, formerly AP's South Asia news editor in New Delhi, now the wire service's Asia news editor.

An OPC reciprocal club, the Tokyo Foreign Correspondents Club, held a memorial service Nov. 5 for four of its members who died during 1996: **Jack Reynolds**, formerly NBC; and former AP correspondents **Henry Hartzenbusch**, **John Fujii** and **Tom Dygard**. Each reporter was memorialized by a current club member. **Jack Russell** called Reynolds "the best boss I ever had" and very supportive of others. **John Roderick** said that when he needed \$3,000 to finish rebuilding an old Japanese farmhouse, Hartzenbusch loaned him the money from AP funds for which Hartzenbusch "was reamed out by AP-New York and told never, never, never do that again." **Day Inoshita** said that Fujii, who worked for both U.S. and Japanese media, could be critical of both countries. **Jim Lagier** said that Dygard "was famous as a writer of 18 sports novels for young men," noting that *The New York Times* obituary led with Dygard's prominence as a children's writer before mentioning his 39 years with AP.

While recovering last summer in a Boston hospital from open heart surgery, **Bernie Krisher**, a former Tokyo *Newsweek* bureau chief who has worked in Japan as a journalist for more than 30 years, received an offer to donate an ambulance to one of Krisher's latest projects: a free hospital for the poor in



The Krishers—Joseph, Akiko, Bernie and Debbie—at Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Cambodia. The hospital was opened on Dec. 10, 1996, and dedicated by Cambodian Queen Monineath. On the previous day, hospital donors including Krisher, his wife Akiko, who helps him collect relief supplies for Cambodia, and their children Debbie and Joseph were invited to a lunch in the Royal Palace given by King Sihanouk. Earlier last year, Krisher and Joseph flew to North Korea on their second visit to provide food to flood victims. For that mission, Krisher collected \$65,000 with which he purchased 260 tons of rice, enough to feed 19,500 people for a month. Why does Krisher do it? "The answer is simple," he says. "I luckily survived the Holocaust and settled in New York with my parents in 1941 where I enjoyed freedom and limitless opportunity."

VANCOUVER, CANADA: Tobias Ted Dunfee, who contracted a crippling virus in May 1990 while on assignment for *Asia Magazine* in the Golden Triangle, remains in a wheelchair but reports, "I've actually become uncon-



scionably serene these days, having coiled my embattled psyche into an impenetrable ball and simply accepted my lot." Dunfee, 44, contracted viral encephalitis (*Culex tarsalis*, said to be fatal in one case in 20), compounded by an infarction and stroke and "given little hope of ever becoming functional again," he writes in the Dec. issue of *The Correspondent*, published by the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club. Dunfee has spent 1,079 days in four hospitals, undergone two laser surgeries, retained his eyesight by daily reading back issues of large-print *Reader's Digest*, received a Canadian government disability pension and last summer motored a mile or so in

his wheelchair to a gymnasium for rehabilitation dips in a whirlpool.

VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA: Hashi Syedain, editor-in-chief of the English-language *Vladivostok News*, reports that her bi-monthly newspaper plans to go weekly this year. Advertising sales are growing and "for the first time ever we're breaking even," she says in an interview in *The Correspondent*, published by the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club. Vladivostok's only English-language newspaper was founded three years ago. "We are probably the freest paper here," said Syedain, a London freelance journalist before she took over in Sept. 1995. "Our bosses don't read English, don't pay much attention to us and that means we can do whatever we like." A recent issue of the eight-page paper, circulation 2,500, published a page-one story on a grenade attack by a drug addict in a local disco, efforts to save the endangered Amur leopard and complaints from Vladivostok prostitutes that visiting Italian sailors were cheap. The paper's expatriate staffers, reporter **Karen Ogden** and copy editor **Heidi Brown**, are paid local salaries, augmenting their income as stringers for Reuters, AP and BBC. *Vladivostok News* is on the internet, getting about 16,000 hits a month at: <http://vlad.tribnet.com>. For more on the newspaper, see p. 2.



Hashi Syedain

WASHINGTON: Dan Southerland, a veteran correspondent in Asia and now vice president of programming and executive editor of Radio Free Asia, sees a special mission for his U.S. government funded broadcasts to China and Tibet. The Voice of America, also government supported, tends to beam American-centered news into target countries, Southerland says. But his goal for Radio Free Asia is to present more news from the listener's own and neighboring countries. Radio Free Asia started broadcasts last year in Mandarin and Tibetan and



Dan Southerland

plans to add local-language broadcasts to Vietnam, North Korea, Burma, Cambodia and Laos. Starting his career with UPI in Tokyo, Southerland spent 13 years with *The Christian Science Monitor* in Saigon, Hong Kong and Washington covering the Vietnam War and other conflicts in Indochina; and five years as Beijing bureau chief for *The Washington Post*. In 1995, Southerland received the Edward Weintal prize for distinguished reporting on the Mao Tse-tung years in China.

◆
Meanwhile, a dispute over Radio Free Asia was played out in *The New York Times*. In a Dec. 26 dispatch from Beijing, *Times* correspondent **Patrick E. Tyler** wrote: "American diplomats in China joke that R.F.A. is a 'stealth' radio network because...those who have found its frequencies say they are seldom able to pick up the signal. It is not that the Chinese are jamming it; the signal is simply too weak to reach much of its intended audience." R.F.A. President **Richard Richter** fired back a reply in a letter in the Jan. 6 *Times*: "Our signals are tracked daily....Monitoring reports available on the I.B.B.'s [International Broadcasting Bureau] Web site show that the signal has been rated 'good' or 'fair' in Beijing and Shanghai. Transmission to Tibet, begun on Dec. 2, has been rated 'excellent.'" ◆

United Press International said it will eliminate most of its European bureaus, *The New York Times* reported on Jan. 21. The wire service will also lay off many of its 75 employees in the region. In their place UPI will use part-time stringers but a spokesman said the agency remained dedicated to covering Europe. UPI has 19 bureaus in Europe and the Middle East. The bureau in London will remain open, it was reported.

DECEASED: Ira H. Freeman, 90, who reported from Europe during World War II for *Yank*, the U.S. Army's weekly magazine for servicemen, died on Jan. 12 in a Long Island hospital. He lived in Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island. After graduating from Columbia School of Journalism in 1928 and until his retirement in 1961, with time out for World War II, Freeman was a general assignment reporter for *The New York Times*. In 1950, he won a Polk Award for national reporting for a series on people

being displaced by construction of a nuclear bomb plant in South Carolina. After retiring, he wrote short stories and magazine articles. From his reporting, he wrote the book "Out of the Burning: The Story of a Boy Gang Leader" [Crown 1960].

◆
Helen Foster Snow, a journalist and author who with her husband Edgar Snow covered Japan's invasion of China and the China civil war, died on Jan. 11 in a nursing home in Guilford, Connecticut. She was 89 and lived in Madison, Connecticut. Helen Snow published six books on China and in the 1930s helped start the Gung-Ho (Work Together) movement of industrial cooperatives in Shanghai. Last year, China named her a Friendship Ambassador, one of that nation's highest honors for a foreign citizen. In the 1940s, after more than a decade in China, she and her husband settled in a 1792 farmhouse in Madison. The couple divorced in 1949. In 1936, Edgar Snow became the first Westerner to visit the Chinese Communists in their Yennan headquarters. He wrote a sympathetic account of their programs and idealism in his book "Red Star Over China" (1937). He died in 1972 at age 67.

◆
Kenneth Coyte, chairman and CEO of London-based Worldwide Television News, died on Jan. 6 following a brief illness. Coyte joined United Press Movietone Television in 1955 and covered stories from bases in New York, London and Paris. Then after working in London as UPI regional manager for the United Kingdom and Scandinavia, he returned to television in 1968 as vice president of Worldwide Television News, the company that evolved from United Press Movietone.

◆
Jeffrey St. John, who covered the Korean War as a reporter-photographer for *Pacific Stars & Stripes*, died of lung cancer on Jan. 3 at his home in Randolph, Virginia. He was 66. After Korea, St. John worked for AP in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and then worked in radio and television as a talk show host, reporter and commentator for stations in New York, Washington and San Francisco, including CBS radio and TV, Mutual Broadcasting, NBC's "Today" program and ABC radio. St. John received two Emmy awards for his television reports.

◆
D. Reginald Tibbetts, who operated the United Press radio listening post in Moraga, California for decades before the trans-Pacific cable and satellite circuits were established, died in Moraga in November. He monitored radio news broadcasts from China, Japan and other Far Eastern posts. During World War II, Tibbetts claimed that he scooped the U.S. government in reporting the 1942 bombing of Tokyo by Jimmy Doolittle's planes and the 1943 shooting down by U.S. fighters over the South Pacific of the plane carrying Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor.

◆
Takemoto Iinuma, who reported from Vietnam and Washington before becoming executive director of *Yomiuri Shimbun*, Japan's largest circulation newspaper, died of liver cancer in a Tokyo hospital last Oct. 3. He was 61. Joining *Yomiuri* in 1961, Iinuma covered the end of the Vietnam War, served as the newspaper's Washington bureau chief, was editor of the newspaper's English-language edition and then moved back to the Japanese paper as head of its foreign news department, assistant managing editor and deputy managing editor. In 1992 he became chief of the Yomiuri Research Institute, the newspaper's research unit, and in June 1996 was named executive director of the newspaper.

◆
Karol Thaler, a Polish refugee who became UPI's senior diplomatic correspondent in London during the Cold War, died last August in London. He was 91. Colleague **Dick Longworth** described Thaler as "the last of a now-departed breed, the Middle European gentleman. Soft spoken, quietly witty, always dressed in a double-breasted suit, calm in a notoriously frenetic bureau, competitive but never pushy, never raising his voice, a man of immense charm and civility." Once dining with other UPI staffers on the terrace of the Beau Rivage overlooking Lake Geneva and the Old City with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande playing and two waiters refilling glasses, Thaler's co-workers complained about long hours, poor working conditions and low pay. "Ah well," Thaler replied, "if you've got to work in a salt mine, it might as well be this one."



The annual Twelfth Day of Christmas Party held at the Tudor on Jan. 7 was a memorable and enjoyable evening for all. Attended by about 75 people, the party's highlight was a surprise celebration of **Whit Bassow's** birthday. Although Whit, a longtime Moscow correspondent, wouldn't reveal his age, he did say, "I was born before *Pravda* and outlived it." Shown is Whit, and wife **Mimi**, as they blow out the candles on his cake, with OPC Manager **Sonya Fry**.

FOUNDATION LUNCHEON

(Continued from Front Page)

questions about situations that confront average Americans and then pursued the answer through reporting conducted at home and abroad.

Of all news organizations wrestling with the challenge of how to present "foreign news," he said the pressures on the three major national newsmagazines, including *Time* and *Newsweek*, are the most intense. They're competing not only against each other, but also against the rise of national editions of *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. A proliferation of TV channels and electronic forms of news also eats into the amount of time people will spend with a general news magazine.

Another tough reality facing all news organizations, he said, is the cost of maintaining international bureaus. "There is an undeniable shift in the costs of acquiring information overseas," he said. That will lead to an "unstoppable trend towards shrinkage of bureaus and reliance on other cheaper means" of acquiring information, Fallows added.

Present at the luncheon were diplomats from Germany, Austria, the European Union, Canada and Japan as well as many journalists, corporate repre-

Knight Fellowships Awarded

The Knight International Press Fellowship Program on Jan. 15 gave out 11 fellowships to conduct long-term assignments to help develop independent media organizations in emerging countries. Since 1994, 66 professionals, including this group of 11, have received these fellowships. The group comprises WBUR-FM reporter **Patrick Cox**, *Palm Beach Post* assistant metro editor **Viola Gienger**, Columbia School of Journalism assistant professor **Rhoda Lipton**, NPR associate producer **Doug Mitchell**, former *Detroit Free Press* associate editor **Ann Olson**, freelance journalist **Janis Overlock**, New York *Daily News* deputy metro editor **Clem Richardson**, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reporter **Martha Shirk**, retired Time Warner corporate communications vice president **Louis Slovinsky**, former *European Stars & Stripes* reporter **Nancy Torner** and visiting Stanford journalism professor **William Woo**. For more information on these fellowships, contact the International Center for Journalists at (202) 737-3700 or fax (202) 737-0530.

sentatives and academicians. The crowd of 160 was the largest since former OPC Foundation President H.L. Stevenson began the scholarships program in 1991. Just two scholarships were awarded that year compared with the seven presented on January 27 to students who came from Columbia, Missouri, Syracuse, Boston and Nebraska universities.

The Overseas Press Club of America
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

**Private Film Screening
on Chechnya Conflict
PRISONER OF
THE MOUNTAINS
Feb. 10 at 6 p.m.
Mark Goodson Theater
2 Columbus Circle**